

1998-99 and 1999-2000 registered a growth of 6.6%, and 7.1% respectively.

The supply and distribution of power within a State/UT is the function of the concerned State Government/State Electricity Board/State Power Utilities. Government of India has, however, initiated reforms process in the power sector after consultation with the State/UT Governments to improve the overall efficiency and to bring in commercial viability in the power supply industry so as to ensure quality power supply to all consumers at reasonable rate.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Delay in Bhadrawati Power Project**

2592. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Company EDF withdrew from the Bhadrawati Power Project on the ground of seven years long delay in project implementation; and

(b) if so, the reasons for failing to finalise such deals with MNCs one after another?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) has informed that M/s. Electricite de France (EDF), a French Power major, who was the co-promoter in the 1082 MW Bhadrawati Power Project, has conveyed to the Central India Power Company (which is the generating company established to develop the project), its decision to pull out from the project. The following reasons have been indicated for pulling out of the power project:—

(i) Inordinate delay in getting clearances from various authorities.

(ii) A very high coal price sought by the coal supplier.

(iii) Lack of proper commitment to escrow arrangements.

(b) So far as the Central Government is concerned, the two major clearances viz. the Techno-Economic Clearance of the Central

[17 August, 2000]

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Electricity Authority and counter guarantee have already been issued. However, it is true that several private sector power projects, including the Bhadrawati project, have been inordinately delayed for various reasons, the foremost reason being the poor financial health of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) and their inability to provide adequate security cover such as escrow arrangement, etc. As regards the supply of coal to the Bhadrawati project, the proximity of the earlier allocated captive coal mines to an Ordnance Factory, led to change in the mining arrangements and consequently, a new coal supply arrangement became necessary. Government will provide all necessary assistance to the project to ensure that it overcomes all the remaining hurdles and achieves financial closure at the earliest possible. The Government of Maharashtra (GOM) have also constituted a Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The Task force members have been discussing all pending issues from time to time with a view to resolving them.

**Action plan to provide potable water**

2593. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently prepared a Rs. 50,000 crores comprehensive action plan to provide potable drinking water to all the villages in the country during the next five years;

(b) whether Government are expected to cover 2,51,560 habitations who either partially or totally, do not have any source of water supply as on 1st June, 2000;

(c) the Central outlay to be allocated during the next five years State-wise; and

(d) whether there is any likely increase in budgetary provisions for 2000-2001 provided for safe drinking water to rural areas of the country?